DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Narayanan, no general exemption from the age-limit can be given to any community; and Government do not guarantee appointments to anybody who chooses to pass examinations. If your people want to take to education, they must not look to Government solely to provide them with means of occupation. They have to take their chance along with other communities.

The other points of your representation are noted.

164. Needs of the Nadars.

MR. R. SIVASUBRAHMANYA NADAR (*Member, Nominated*) said that the Nadars formed an important community in the State, their population being more than two lakhs, and that they ranked third among the Hindu communities in numerical strength, *i. e.*, next to the Nairs and the Ezhavas. But they were not represented on public bodies. The need for nominating a member for the Legislative Council from the Nadar community had been brought to the notice of the Government several times. But it was deplorable that such nomination was not made even for the existing Council, although lesser communities such as the Mar Thoma Syrians were represented by nomination. When the same matter was represented last year, an assurance was given that all minor communities would be represented by turns. The Nadars should be given nomination to the next Council.

The Nadars were more backward in English education than in Vernacular education. One reason for such backwardness was that there were no English Middle Schools in big Nadar villages. Agastisvaram, the chief Nadar centre of South Travancore, was an instance in point. On the application of one Mr. Gurunatha Martanda Nadar, the Director of Public Instruction, Mr. J. Stephenson, granted permission to open a Middle School and asked the applicant to obtain permission to construct a building on a *pormboke* site selected for the purpose. The Land Revenue Commissioner had recommended the grant of such permission by the Government. But in the meantime, the Ag. Director of Public Instruction issued a memo to the applicant that, as the report of the Inspector of Schools was unfavourable, permission to put up the school-building on the *poramboke* site could not be recommended to the Government. That decision was hard and in effect it was against the orders of the permanent Director. Moreover, the applicant had collected building materials to the value of Rs. 1,000, which would be wasted if the school be not erected. The views of the permanent Director should be obtained before final orders were passed.

The percentage of literacy among the Nadars was very low, being only 9. That was mainly due to the absence of schools in important Nadar villages and the disinclination on the part of parents to send their childern to schools in distant places. A few departmental Primary Schools should therefore be opened in important Nadar villages such as Paramarthalingapuram, Poovikudiyiruppu and Chukkapparaitherivilai.

The Primary School at Kidarakuzhy was built by the *Keraliya Nadar Samajam* and handed over to the Eucation Department on the understanding that it would be raised to the grade of a Middle School. The promise should be fulfilled without further delay.

Although there were only very few persons in the Nadar community with English educational qualifications, there were many V. S. L. C. holders who had got no employment in spite of repeated applications made to the authorities in the Education Department. When vacancies arose, members of advanced communities were appointed without any preference being shown to Nadar applicants. Again, while there were many acting Nadars in the Vernacular branch of the Education Department, they were not confirmed, but their juniors were put in. Special instructions should be issued to the authorities concerned to rectify the above irregularities and to confirm Nadar acting hands in preference to those belonging to other well-represented communities.

The Nadars were poorly represented in the Land Revenue, Excise and Police Departments. In the natural course of events, it would take a long time, or it

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might even be impossible for them to get fair representation in those departments. A certain proportion of the vacancies in the lower ranks of those departments such as *pakuthi* accountants, clerks in Taluk and Division Cutcherries, Excise peons and Petty Officers, and Police Constables, should therefore be reserved for Nadars and filled after inviting Nadar applicants alone. A similar concession was once shown to the Ezhavas in filling vacancies of Petty Officers in the Excise Department.

Being backward in education, there were only a few E. S. L. C. holders and one or two graduates in the Nadar community. The qualified men being few, the over-aged among them should be exempted from the operation of the rule regarding age-limit for entertainment in public service.

The need for declaring the Myladi street as a King's highway was pressed at the last session of the Assembly and it was then stated that the Government could not go back upon the decision of the High Court. The visit of the Dewan might have enabled him to realise the grievances of the Nadars caused by the High Court decision. Even a High Court decision could be over-ruled, if it worked hardship on a certain section of the subjects of the State. The roads in Vaikam were similarly situated, but, they had been declared King's highways.

The officers of the Revenue Department should be asked by a circular to adhere strictly to G. O. R. Dis. No. 6 of 24/G. A., enjoining that the caste-name of the community should be recorded as 'Nadar' in all official records. Some of the officers were not following the G. O., while others were persisting in writing 'Nadan' instead of 'Nadar'. That should not be allowed and the name 'Nadar' should be entered in the *Tandaper* and all other revenue records.

Half-fee concessions were allowed to Nadars in English Schools. But there was no such concession in colleges; and consequently, many Nadars could not go in for university education. With a view to encourage the Nadars in higher education, half-fee concessions should be allowed to them in colleges as in the case of Mahomedans who were economically better off than Nadars. Smilar concessions should be granted in Vernacular Schools as well.

The pupils attending the Vernacular Middle School, Kottaram, from distant villages were using the old Pakuthi Cutcherry building there as a tiffin shed. As the building had been taken back for the use of the Pakuthi Cutcherry, the pupils were very much inconvenienced. A tiffin shed should therefore be constructed at an early date.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Sivasubrahmanya Nadar, I do not propose to deal with the question of a tiffin shed. It is too trifling a matter to be brought before this Assembly.

In regard to Myladi Street, Government are still exploring ways of solving that problem. But I may say at once that they find themselves faced with serious difficulties as to the manner of giving the relief prayed for.

Your request in regard to schools will be placed before the Director of Public Instruction for consideration.

In regard to exemption from age-bar, the Government cannot grant a general relaxation. Individual cases will be considered on their own merits. Nor can Government reserve exclusively for any one community any class of appointments in any department. The backwardness of centuries cannot be made good in a week.

165. Needs of the Sambavars.

MR. K. MADHAVAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that, in all the occupations of the members of the depressed classes, their women had also a share and were employed to do weeding, transplanting, manuring the fields, reaping, etc. But their health was not cared for by their employers, especially during pregnancy and confinement. It was not uncommon to see pregnant women beloging to the depressed classes engaged as porters or doing other kinds of hard labour. The result of such labour was abortion, death of children and in some cases even of the mothers. The aid of doctors could not be resorted to because of poverty. The children born under such adverse conditions became victims to certain fell diseases.

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